CONIFA

REFEREEING 2026

Marvin Schories

2026 review | Development proposal | 8th November 2026

CONIFA Football Strategy Days
7-8 November 2026
Villa Cagnola | Gazzada Schianno
VARESE



SPEAKER

Marvin Schories

27 years

German-Bulgarian referee

Occupation: Police Detective

Head of refereeing in the Harburg district

Referee at the CONIFA EURO 2026



CONIFA Football Strategy Days
7-8 November 2026
Villa Cagnola | Gazzada Schianno
VARESE

Structure in Refereeing in CONIFA

Worldwide CONIFA Refereeing with Roger Lundbäck as a Global Referee Director

European CONIFA Referee Director – Daniele Curcio

Refereeing Team for the EURO 2026: 8 Referees from 6 countries (Romania, Finland, Costa Rica, Germany, Moldova, Denmark)



2026 as a turning point

APR–MAY

Curcio selected

1–7 JUN

European Championship returns

6 JUN

Merit-based final appointment

8 NOV

European development discussed



What was new in CONIFA refereeing?

A tournament operation built around quality, cooperation, coaching and a genuinely international referee team.

Pre-existing chemistry due to the fact that officials had already worked together

Structured learning with daily briefings, video reviews and observers

Cross-generational mentoring with international observers and referees of a different age

Results of the EURO 2026

No major controversies except for one game with two crucial mistakes

Confidence under pressure – especially in the knockout games

Observation by famous UEFA observers, e.g. Renato Faverani (Assistant of the World Cup Final 2014)

Final appointment

A 19-year-old talent was in charge.

Robert Fratila · Romania

Appointment based on tournament performances, not seniority.

Fratila is now on his way to the 2nd division in Romania



Final: Northern Cyprus 6–1 Padania • 6 June 2026

The next step

A European CONIFA Referee System

01

Local referee committees

Member associations develop and recommend their own candidates.

02

European technical assessment

A Curcio-led European structure evaluates suitability and development.

03

CONIFA-controlled list

Final admission and international appointments remain with authorised CONIFA decision-makers.

Scope: European Championships, European qualifiers and long-term referee development.

Local nomination, central decision

Football associations gain a real development role without taking control of international list admissions or appointments.

Possible process: the integration of a local refereeing committee – finding suitable referees for the national list.

CONIFA Europe checks the minimum standards and possible fitness test and does an observation of candidates.

An approval of the candidate is done for every year if the standards have been met for another year and the performances have also been fine.
First year on CONIFA list e.g. as a trial or in a talent group.

A nomination is not a guaranteed listing. A listing is not a guaranteed appointment. Listing in 3-4 different categories.

Exemplary minimum requirements

Laws of the Game test

Physical test

A certain number of games in adult-match experience / international youth experience

English-language knowledge

Availability, insurance, ability to travel

Participation in minimum one CONIFA meeting / year

Why each association should have a referee committee

Local talent pipeline – improvement for young referees

International experience

Better domestic football

Recognition and motivation

Professionalism

Stronger credibility

General requirements

Chairman and a committee

Independence from clubs, coaches, managers, etc.

Documentation of the appointments of the Referees

Education of the Referees

Formal Integration of the committee into the National Football Association

Adoption and Implementation of Official Refereeing Regulations

What is next?

Implementation in the associations of the CONIFA Europe members

Possible reach out to other potential states (Monaco, Vatican City, Transnistria, Jersey, Guernsey, Svalbard, ...) → a growth of CONIFA Europe means also a bigger potential in Refereeing

Early implementation → better preperation for the next big European Tournament

Early planning → choice of the best referees

DECISION

The next standard is a system, not a single event.

Proposed decision

Endorse the principles of a Europe-wide, merit-based referee register; invite associations to form committees and nominate candidates; retain final CONIFA approval and appointment powers.

